

REMARKS

The Specification has been amended to clarify the description of Figures 2, 4, and 5. Claims 5, 7, and 17 have been canceled. Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 18, 20-21, and 24 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). Applicants have amended the Specification to clarify that reference numerals 310, 320, 330, and 340 being referred to are the reference numerals appearing in Figure 3. It is hoped that this amendment will enable the objection to the drawings to be removed.

Claims 5, 7, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response, Applicants have canceled the claims in order to further the prosecution of this application.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. However, Applicants believe that one skilled in the art, with reference to the Specification, would be able to understand the claims as written. The claims may be understood with reference to Figure 2 and Example 1, for example. Figure 2 depicts a DNA sequence 210, in which the monomer “a” has been partially labeled in three different examples, indicated as 230, 240, and 250, so that the monomer “a”, as it appears in the polymer sequence is sometimes labeled and sometimes not labeled, i.e., it is partially labeled. Examples 230, 240, and 250 represent different polymers in which the labeled monomer “a” has been randomly incorporated. Partial incorporation of labeled monomers can be achieved by providing a solution during polymer synthesis that contains both labeled and unlabeled monomers. Example 1 describes an example in which a polymer having four different monomers is sequenced. In Example 1, four different sub-samples are created. In a first sub-sample, one of the monomers is labeled part of the time, so that the polymer in the subsample contains both labeled and unlabeled monomers of a particular type. In the second polymer subsample, a second different monomer is labeled part of the time, and so on. Specification page 8, lines 18-34 describes how a polymer, such as DNA, may be synthesized having both labeled and unlabeled monomers. The partially labeled polymer subsample is then digested (one monomer at a time is cleaved sequentially

from the polymer chain) and the cleaved monomers are detected as a function of time. However, in order to expedite prosecution, applicants have amended claims 1 and 13, the independent claims, to remove the rejected language. It is hoped that these amendments place the claims in a condition for allowance.


Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. As discussed in the preceding paragraph, Claims 1 and 13 have been edited to expedite prosecution and to remove rejected claim language. Further, Claims 6 and 16 have been amended to remove the word "strand," however it is believed that there exists an antecedent basis for "labeled" in the ultimate parent claims, claims 1 and 13, in that the polymer subsample is labeled. Claim 8 has been amended to no longer depend from a withdrawn claim. Claim 24 has been amended to fix a typographical error. It is hoped that these amendments place the claims in a condition for allowance.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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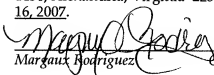
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Margaux Rodriguez October 16, 2007